The First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir Austen Chamberlain, hurried to Invergordon to conduct a personal investigation there; and it was announced that, as far as the Navy was concerned, pay cuts were suspended. Later, they were reintroduced in a greatly modified form without any objections being raised.

Abroad, the Invergordon Mutiny was regarded as the beginning of the break-up of the British Empire.[12] Britannia, it was felt, was clearly not in a position to go on ruling the waves, and therefore London was no longer a safe place to deposit money. The flight from the pound, which had been slowed down by the formation of the National Government, gained renewed impetus; hearts, reassured by the cut in unemployment pay and other economies, were made anxious again by insubordination in the Navy. Once more Mr. Montagu Norman had to announce an empty till, and the refusal of French and American bankers to replenish it. Less than a month after MacDonald had formed the National Government,, there was a recurrence of the same situation which had led him to break with his old associates and find new ones among former opponents. This time he could not save the country. He had saved it already. His previous performance was not capable of repetition. On August 25 he had delivered a solemn warning that 'if there were any collapse in the pound we should be defaulting on our obligations to the rest of the world and our credit would be gone'; on September 21 he announced the abandonment of the Gold Standard,[13] the

[12] Especially in the U.S.S.R. The course of die Russian Revolution has now been sanctified there as the pattern of all true revolutions; and as a mutiny in the Black Sea Fleet heralded Lenin's assumption of power, so it was assumed that a mutiny in the Atlantic Fleet must herald the outbreak of a. proletarian revolution in England.

[1S] Commander Stephen King-Hall, in *Our Own Times,* pointing to the Invergordon Mutiny as the direct cause of this, in his view, necessary change in fiscal policy, mentions that he has often reflected upon 'the strange combination of circumstances which caused the Royal Navy to be used by a far-seeing Providence as the unconscious means of… releasing the nation from the onerous terms of the contract of 1925 when the pound was restored